

**THE CITY OF TORONTO**

**City Clerk's Division**

**Minutes of the Community Services Committee**

**Meeting No. 4**

**Wednesday, April 19, 2000**

The Community Services Committee met on Wednesday, April 19, 2000, in Committee Room 1, 2nd Floor, City Hall, Toronto, commencing at 9:40 a.m.

**Members Present:**

Councillor Brad Duguid, Chair  
Councillor Olivia Chow  
Councillor Norman Gardner  
Councillor Irene Jones  
Councillor Norman Kelly  
Councillor Chris Korwin-Kuczynski  
Councillor Peter Li Preti  
Councillor Joe Mihevc  
Councillor Michael Prue  
Councillor Michael Walker

**Also Present:**

Councillor John Adams  
Councillor Jane Pitfield

Members were present for some or all of the time period indicated.

**Confirmation of Minutes.**

On motion by Councillor Walker, the Minutes of the meeting of the Community Services Committee held on March 22, 2000, were confirmed.

**4.1 Toronto Fire Services - Rewards By-law for False Alarm Information.**

The Committee had before it a joint report (March 27, 2000) from the Commissioner of Works and Emergency Services and the Fire Chief responding to the request of the Community Services Committee on December 1, 1999, to report on the false alarm reward system and the possibility of increasing rewards to individuals who report others for pulling fire alarms that are false; and recommending that:

- (a) a new False Alarm Reward By-law, based on the draft By-law set out in Appendix "A", be adopted; and
- (b) the appropriate City officials be authorized and directed to take the necessary action to give effect thereto.

On motion by Councillor Kelly, the Committee recommended to Council the adoption of the aforementioned joint report, subject to amending part (1) of the draft False Alarm By-law by deleting the amount of "\$500.00", and inserting in lieu thereof the amount of "\$1,000.00".

**(Clause No. 1, Report No. 4)**

**4.2 Toronto Fire Services - Bursary Outreach Program.**

The Committee had before it a joint report (March 24, 2000) from the Commissioner of Works and Emergency Services and the Fire Chief respecting a proposed bursary program to assist people in designated target groups with financial assistance in obtaining qualifications to apply for a fire-fighting career with Toronto Fire Services; noting that the \$300,000.00 for this program was not recommended for funding in the year 2000 Operating Budget; and recommending that Council provide direction to Toronto Fire Services in respect of the concept of a bursary program for applicants to obtain job-related qualifications for a career in fire-fighting.

The Chair appointed Councillor Jones, Acting Chair and vacated the Chair.

Community Services Committee Minutes  
Wednesday, April 19, 2000

---

Councillor Duguid moved that the Fire Chief be requested to report directly to the special meeting of Council to be held on April 26, 2000, outlining the viability of financing a bursary outreach program through increased application fees. **(Lost)**

Councillor Duguid resumed the Chair.

Councillor Walker moved that, in order to achieve employment equity objectives, the bursary outreach program be funded through general revenues, and the appropriate funding be transferred to the Toronto Fire Services budget. **(Lost on the following recorded vote:**

**FOR: Gardner, Jones, Prue and Walker**

**AGAINST: Chow, Duguid, Kelly, Li Preti and Mihevc)**

Councillor Mihevc moved that, in the event that City Council during its consideration of the 2000 Operating Budget on April 26, 2000, does not approve any additional resources for the Toronto Fire Services Bursary Outreach Program, the Fire Chief be requested to report to the Community Services Committee on how priorities within the Toronto Fire Services can be reordered to fund the Bursary Outreach Program without affecting front-line services.

**(Carried on the following recorded vote:**

**FOR: Chow, Li Preti, Mihevc, Prue and Walker**

**AGAINST: Duguid, Gardner, Jones and Kelly)**

Councillor Kelly moved that the Fire Chief be requested to report to the Community Services Committee on the benefits that might accrue from the three emergency services, Ambulance, Fire and Police Services, establishing a joint outreach program to encourage people in designated target groups who require financial assistance to apply for careers with the emergency services. **(Carried)**

Councillor Jones moved that the Fire Chief be requested to report to the Community Services Committee on the feasibility of any volunteer opportunities,

Community Services Committee Minutes  
Wednesday, April 19, 2000

---

such as from the Toronto Fire Fighters Retirees' Association, to assist staff with the Bursary Outreach Program at events in the community. **(Carried)**

The following is a summary of the action taken by the Committee:

"The Committee directed that, in the event that City Council during its consideration of the 2000 Operating Budget on April 26, 2000, does not approve any additional resources for the Toronto Fire Services Bursary Outreach Program, the Fire Chief be requested to report to the Community Services Committee on:

- (1) how priorities within the Toronto Fire Services can be reordered to fund the Bursary Outreach Program without affecting front-line services;
- (2) the benefits that might accrue from the three emergency services, Ambulance, Fire and Police Services, establishing a joint outreach program to encourage people in designated target groups who require financial assistance to apply for careers with the emergency services; and
- (3) the feasibility of any volunteer opportunities, such as from the Toronto Fire Fighters Retirees' Association, to assist staff with the Bursary Outreach Program at events in the community."

(Administration Committee; Fire Chief; Commissioner of Works and Emergency Services - April 19, 2000)

**(Clause No. 7(a), Report No. 4)**

#### **4.3 Toronto Fire Services - Proposed Changes to the Ontario Building Code.**

The Committee had before it a joint report (March 6, 2000) from the Commissioner of Works and Emergency Services and the Fire Chief respecting proposed changes to the Ontario Building Code; and recommending that:

- (1) Council endorse the Fire Chief's initiative to request the Ministry of Municipal Affairs and

Community Services Committee Minutes  
Wednesday, April 19, 2000

---

Housing to conduct additional research into the concept of requiring all new residential construction to include mandatory fire sprinkler systems; and

- (2) the Clerk be requested to write to the Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing on behalf of Council to request such additional research.

The following Members of Council appeared before the Community Services Committee in connection with the foregoing matter:

- Councillor Jane Pitfield, East York, and recommended that Recommendation No. (2) contained in the joint report of the Commissioner of Works and Emergency Services and the Fire Chief be amended by adding thereto the following:

"and further that research be conducted into raising the standards of the Ontario Building Code to provide a higher level of safety by addressing problems with combustible heat-producing products, such as air-tight stoves and zero clearance fireplaces, in residential homes."; and

- Councillor John Adams, Midtown, and recommended that the Fire Chief, in consultation with the Commissioner of Urban Development Services, be requested to report to the appropriate committee on ways and means to negotiate sprinkler improvements in new construction when property owners are applying for Official Plan or Rezoning Amendments by way of Section 37 of the Planning Act, or any other means.

Councillor Gardner moved that the Commissioner of Urban Development Services be requested to report to the Planning and Transportation Committee on the feasibility of reducing the cost of building permit fees in the areas where sprinklers are built into a unit. **(Lost)**

Councillor Jones moved that the Fire Chief be requested to investigate opportunities of home insurance premium reductions due to the introduction of home sprinkler systems, and report thereon to the Community Services Committee. **(Carried)**

Councillor Korwin-Kuczynski moved that the foregoing motion by Councillor Jones be amended to provide that the report requested of the Fire Chief include

Community Services Committee Minutes  
Wednesday, April 19, 2000

---

information on the feasibility of the Provincial and Federal Governments establishing grants programs to assist individuals in updating their dwellings to include automatic sprinkler protection. **(Carried)**

The Chair appointed Councillor Jones Acting Chair, and vacated the Chair.

Councillor Duguid moved that:

- (1) the Committee recommend to Council the adoption of the aforementioned joint report;
- (2) the following motion by Councillor Pitfield be referred to the Fire Chief for consideration:

“That Recommendation No. (2) contained in the joint report of the Commissioner of Works and Emergency Services and the Fire Chief be amended by adding thereto the following:

‘and further that research be conducted into raising the standards of the Ontario Building Code to provide a higher level of safety by addressing problems with combustible heat-producing products, such as air-tight stoves and zero clearance fireplaces, in residential homes’.”; and

- (3) the Fire Chief, in consultation with the Commissioner of Urban Development Services, be requested to report to the appropriate committee on ways and means to negotiate sprinkler improvements in new construction when property owners are applying for Official Plan or Rezoning Amendments by way of Section 37 of the Planning Act, or any other means.

**(Carried)**

Councillor Duguid resumed the Chair.

Community Services Committee Minutes  
Wednesday, April 19, 2000

---

The following is a summary of the action taken by the Committee:

"The Committee:

- (1) recommended to Council the adoption of the joint report of the Commissioner of Works and Emergency Services and the Fire Chief;
- (2) referred the following motion by Councillor Pitfield to the Fire Chief for consideration:

“That Recommendation No. (2) contained in the joint report of the Commissioner of Works and Emergency Services and the Fire Chief be amended by adding thereto the following:

‘and further that research be conducted into raising the standards of the Ontario Building Code to provide a higher level of safety by addressing problems with combustible heat-producing products, such as air-tight stoves and zero clearance fireplaces, in residential homes’.”;

- (3) directed that the Fire Chief, in consultation with the Commissioner of Urban Development Services, be requested to report to the appropriate committee on ways and means to negotiate sprinkler improvements in new construction when property owners are applying for Official Plan or Rezoning Amendments by way of Section 37 of the Planning Act, or any other means; and
- (4) directed that the Fire Chief be requested to investigate opportunities of home insurance premium reductions due to the introduction of home sprinkler systems, and report thereon to the Community Services Committee; and further that such report include information on the feasibility of the Provincial and Federal Governments establishing grants programs to assist individuals in updating their dwellings to include automatic sprinkler protection.

(Commissioner of Works and Emergency Services; Fire Chief; Councillor Jane Pitfield, East York; Councillor John Adams, Midtown - April 19, 2000)

**(Clause No. 2, Report No. 2)**

#### **4.4 Pharmacy Services - Homes for the Aged.**

The Committee had before it a report (March 15, 2000) from the Commissioner of Community and Neighbourhood Services recommending that:

- (1) the current service agreement with Medical Pharmacies Ltd., 590 Granite Court, Pickering, Ontario, be extended for an additional two-year period of time, for the period of April 1, 2000 to April 1, 2002;
- (2) prior to the conclusion of the extension period, a Request for Proposals (RFP) be issued to community-accredited pharmacies with expertise in pharmacy service to long term care facilities, for the future provision of pharmacy services; and
- (3) the appropriate City officials be authorized and directed to take the necessary action to give effect thereto.

On motion by Councillor Gardner, the Committee recommended to Council the adoption of the aforementioned report.

**(Clause No. 3, Report No. 4)**

#### **4.5 Consulting Services for Design of a New Home for the Aged to Replace Albion Lodge and Redevelopment of True Davidson Acres.**

The Committee had before it a joint report (April 3, 2000) from the Commissioner of Community and Neighbourhood Services and the Chief Financial Officer and Treasurer recommending that:

- (1) the proposal submitted by the firm of Shore Tilbe Irwin & Partners, in association with Mill & Ross Architects Inc., be accepted for consulting services for the design of a new Home for the Aged to replace the existing Albion Lodge, at a cost of 7.0 percent of the construction cost, currently estimated to be \$1,344,000.00 exclusive of taxes and disbursements, being the highest evaluated proposal received; and that the firm of Shore Tilbe Irwin & Partners be retained for the Albion Lodge project;
- (2) the fees paid to Montgomery Sisam Associates Inc., for consulting services for the redesign of True Davidson Acres, be revised as follows:



Community Services Committee Minutes  
Wednesday, April 19, 2000

---

- (a) fee for the originally estimated cost of construction up to \$7,500,000.00 would be 8.25 percent, as originally negotiated; and
- (b) fee for estimated cost of construction beyond \$7,500,000.00 would be 7.5 percent; and
- (3) the appropriate City officials be authorized and directed to take the necessary action to give effect thereto.

On motion by Councillor Kelly, the Committee:

- (1) recommended to Council the adoption of the aforementioned joint report of the Commissioner of Community and Neighbourhood Services and the Chief Financial Officer and Treasurer; and
- (2) directed that the Commissioner of Community and Neighbourhood Services be requested to report to the Community Services Committee on the role of the Community Care Access Centres, such report to include an explanation of the different residential care facilities available to the elderly.

(Commissioner of Community and Neighbourhood Services; General Manager, Homes for the Aged - April 19, 2000)

**(Clause No. 4, Report No. 4)**

#### **4.6 Redevelopment of Albion Lodge - Community Consultation Process.**

The Committee had before it a report (April 5, 2000) from the Commissioner of Community and Neighbourhood Services advising that staff of the Homes for the Aged Division are committed to working collaboratively with the community, the community consultation consultant team, and the architect with respect to the redevelopment of Albion Lodge to ensure that the new Home is

resident-focused, provides a home-like environment, ensures safety and security, and blends into the streetscape and the neighbourhood; indicating that the recommended architectural firm of Shore Tilbe Irwin & Partners has agreed to contract with a consultant, acceptable to the Homes for the Aged Division, in order to conduct meaningful community consultation, as part of their 7 percent professional services fee; and recommending that the report be received for information.

On motion by Councillor Jones, the Committee received the aforementioned report.

(Commissioner of Community and Neighbourhood Services; General Manager, Homes for the Aged - April 19, 2000)

**(Clause No. 7(b), Report No. 4)**

**4.7 Administration of the Toronto Youth Job Corps and Youth Outreach Toronto Programs.**

The Committee had before it a report (April 6, 2000) from the Commissioner of Community and Neighbourhood Services recommending that:

- (1) the Commissioner of Community and Neighbourhood Services be authorized to sign agreements with Human Resources Development Canada to receive funds in an amount not to exceed \$1,365,600.00 as its share of program costs for Toronto Youth Job Corps and Youth Outreach Toronto;
- (2) the Commissioner of Community and Neighbourhood Services be authorized to renew agreements with St. Christopher House, West Scarborough Neighbourhood Community Centre and Youth Clinical Services to deliver the Toronto Youth Job Corps program on the proviso that:
  - (a) the funds have been approved in the City's budget;
  - (b) the delivery agencies of the Toronto Youth Job Corps program comply with all applicable requirements under the purchase of service agreement;
  - (c) the agreements shall be in a form satisfactory to the City Solicitor and contain such other items and conditions as he may deem advisable; and

- (d) the agreements are within the Commissioner of Community and Neighbourhood Services delegated approval limits; and
- (3) the appropriate City officials be authorized and directed to take the necessary action to give effect thereto.

On motion by Councillor Gardner, the Committee recommended to Council the adoption of the aforementioned report.

**(Clause No. 5, Report No. 4)**

#### **4.8 Provincial Zero Tolerance for Social Assistance Fraud Policy.**

The Committee had before it a report (March 30, 2000) from the City Solicitor responding to the request of the Community Services Committee on March 22, 2000, for a report on the means which may be available to the City of Toronto to appeal the provincial legislation on social assistance fraud and to support individuals who have been cut off social assistance as a result of the Province's proposed zero tolerance for social assistance fraud legislation; advising that the City does not have the legal ability to commence a challenge to the zero tolerance for fraud policy; and recommending that the report be received for information.

The Committee also had before it a communication (April 17, 2000) from Ms. Nancy Vander Plaats, Scarborough Community Legal Services, on behalf of the Social Assistance Action Committee requesting the Community Services Committee to recommend to Council that the City actively support a future legal challenge to the regulation for the lifetime ban.

Councillor Gardner moved that the aforementioned report be received. **(Carried)**

Councillor Mihevc moved that:

Community Services Committee Minutes  
Wednesday, April 19, 2000

---

- (1) the City continue to voice its objection to the Province of Ontario's zero tolerance policy; **(Lost)**
- (2) the City Solicitor and the Commissioner of Community and Neighbourhood Services be requested to closely monitor all aspects of the provincial zero tolerance policy for social assistance fraud, including legal opportunities to challenge the regulation and the effects on people who have had a ban imposed, and report thereon to the Community Services Committee; **(Carried)**
- (3) the Commissioner of Community and Neighbourhood Services be requested to prepare a plan with appropriate checks, and balances to create an income assistance plan for those facing a lifetime ban.

Councillor Chow moved that part (3) of the foregoing motion by Councillor Mihevc be amended to provide that the Commissioner of Community and Neighbourhood Services report to the Community Services Committee on the creation of an income assistance plan once a substantial number of people have been affected by the provincial legislation. **(Lost)**

Upon the question of the adoption of part (3) of the foregoing motion by Councillor Mihevc, it was **lost**.

The following is a summary of the action taken by the Committee:

"The Committee received the aforementioned report; and further directed that the City Solicitor and the Commissioner of Community and Neighbourhood Services be requested to closely monitor all aspects of the provincial zero tolerance policy for social assistance fraud, including legal opportunities to challenge the regulation and the effects on people who have had a ban imposed, and report thereon to the Community Services Committee."

(Commissioner of Community and Neighbourhood Services; City Solicitor; Ms. Nancy Vander Plaats, Scarborough Community Legal Services; c. General Manager, Social Services Division - April 19, 2000)

**(Clause No. 7(c), Report No. 4)**

#### **4.9 The Toronto Youth Profile.**

Community Services Committee Minutes  
Wednesday, April 19, 2000

---

The Committee had before it a communication (March 31, 2000) from the City Clerk advising that the Children and Youth Action Committee on March 29, 2000, received the report (March 9, 2000) from the Commissioner of Community and Neighbourhood Services, respecting the "Toronto Youth Profile"; and directed that it be forwarded to the Community Services Committee.

On motion by Councillor Jones, the Committee received the aforementioned communication.

(Commissioner of Community and Neighbourhood Services; Councillor Olivia Chow, Children and Youth Advocate - April 19, 2000)

**(Clause No. 7(d), Report No. 4)**

**4.10 Second Suites in Residential Family Dwellings - Tax Impact.**

The Committee had before it a communication (March 28, 2000) from the City Clerk advising that the Assessment and Tax Policy Task Force, on March 27, 2000, had before it a report (March 2, 2000) from the Chief Financial Officer and Treasurer, headed "Second Suites in Residential Family Dwellings – Tax Impact," wherein it was recommended that:

- (1) the Chief Financial Officer and Treasurer report separately on the concept of dedicated revenue specifically in this case for second suites as well as dedicated revenue in general; and
- (2) this report be forwarded to the Community Services Committee;

and that the Assessment and Tax Policy Task Force directed that the report be forwarded to the Community Services Committee, in accordance with Council's directive, with a request that comments be forwarded to the Policy and Finance Committee.

On motion by Councillor Chow, the Committee received the aforementioned communication.

(Commissioner of Urban Development Services; Chief Financial Officer and Treasurer - April 19, 2000)

**(Clause No. 7(e), Report No. 4)**

**4.11 Emergency Shelter Services Provided to Aboriginal Persons.**

The Committee had before it a communication (March 10, 2000) from the The Honourable Robert D. Nault, Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development, responding to the communication dated November 26, 1999, from the City Clerk concerning hostel services and the request that the federal government provide 100 percent funding for all emergency shelter services provided to Aboriginal persons by the City of Toronto; reminding the City that Aboriginal persons are entitled to access all programs and services by the municipality where they reside, as well as provincial programs, on the same basis as other residents; and noting that the Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms, the Canada Health and Social Transfer, and the recent Social Union Agreement set out the principles that must be applied to ensure Canadians have access to government programs in a fair and equitable way.

The Chair appointed Councillor Jones Acting Chair and vacated the Chair.

On motion by Councillor Duguid, the Committee recommended to Council that:

- (1) the Commissioner of Community and Neighbourhood Services, in consultation with the Aboriginal Homelessness Steering Committee, develop an Aboriginal Strategy geared to providing social supports to move Aboriginal people from homelessness and unemployment to permanent housing and employment; and
- (2) the Federal and Provincial Governments be requested to participate in the development of such an Aboriginal Strategy, in recognition of their responsibilities to participate in any holistic solution to Aboriginal unemployment and homelessness.

(Commissioner of Community and Neighbourhood Services - April 19, 2000)

**(Clause No. 6, Report No. 4)**

Councillor Duguid resumed the Chair.

**4.12 Update on the Fire at the U.S.E. Hickson Chemical Plant.**

The Committee received a verbal update from the Fire Chief on the fire at the U.S.E. Hickson chemical plant on Sunday, April 12, 2000, wherein he noted that a team, comprised of doctors, Fire Services officials, the Ministry of Labour, Health and Safety officials, and other appropriate specialists, has been established to monitor the health impact on the fire fighters and other personnel present at the scene of the fire.

The Committee received the aforementioned verbal update.

(Commissioner of Works and Emergency Services - April 19, 2000)

**(Clause No. 7(f), Report No. 4)**

The Committee adjourned its meeting at 12:10 p.m.

---

Chair.